

# HONEYBEE REMOVAL TECHNIQUES

Honeybees are typically found above the ground nesting in cavities of trees. However, they can also inhabit other structures such as house attics and walls, gas and water meter boxes, and any other dark, safe object.

There are basically 3 ways to remove bees from structures:

## A. EXTERMINATION

Local pest control companies can usually kill bees quickly with a variety of chemicals. It can be rather messy, the chemicals are left inside the wall, and the comb and honey remains. If the entrance holes are not plugged up well, a future swarm will move in to occupy the empty colony. Depending on the size of the hive, this method can take up to a few hours to complete.

## B. CUT-OUT

If the owner gives permission to remove the wall to gain access to the hive, a special bee vac is used to humanely remove the bees. The comb is cut from the hive and placed in a bee box. The bee box is left next to the old location for several days so the bees can settle into their new house and clean out the old structure. The old comb is scrapped off and pinesol oil is rubbed over the old comb to hide the smell of wax. Insulation is put into the wall to prevent future infestation by another swarm of bees.



## C. BAIT-OUT

This technique is the most humane way to remove bees. A small nuc hive with one frame of bees and a queen is placed in front of the entrance of the colony in the structure (wall, tree, etc). A wire funnel is placed over the entrance to create a one-way street for the bees. The bees fly out of the wall hive but cannot get back in so they enter the bait hive and are welcomed by the new queen. This process usually takes from 6 to 8 weeks to complete.

